



## NEVADA OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES STATE OF NEVADA

For Immediate Release  
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### **Nevada Office of Veterans Service to Host Event in Elko, NV Introduces New Remote Benefits Delivery Program *Program Serving Rural Vets in Northeastern Nevada***

**ELKO, Nevada** – Rural Nevada veterans will now have easier access to federal benefits information and assistance through an innovative Remote Benefits Delivery Program using video conferencing technology. In partnership, the Nevada Office of Veterans Services (NOVS) and the Veterans Affairs Regional Office in Reno, Nevada (VARO) will be providing this additional service to an estimated 7,671 veterans who reside in Elko, Humboldt, Lander, Eureka, and White Pine Counties.

The event, open to area veterans, elected officials, and media, will be held **Thursday, July 24, 2008, at 11:00 a.m.**, in the NOVS Office, at 825 Railroad Street, Elko, Nevada 89801. Attending, and available for media interviews are: Tim Tetz, Executive Director of NOVS; Matthew Tuma, Regional Representative for US Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid; and Donald Iddings, Director of VARO in Reno. A brief presentation will be given, with questions and answers to follow.

“We have Sen. Reid to thank for this enhanced service which will benefit our rural veterans. Through his efforts at the federal level, our State is the second in the nation to obtain this Remote Benefits Delivery Program,” said Tim Tetz, Executive Director of NOVS.

The first Remote Benefits Delivery Program was implemented in rural Montana, in March 2008. The following month, Sen. Reid requested the Veterans Administration consider expanding this Program to rural Nevada, which was approved in May.

“These new capabilities are wonderful additions for our veterans living in rural areas of Nevada,” Sen. Reid said. “As the number of veterans in our State continues to grow, it’s only right that we provide them all the same benefits and services available in our larger cities. Our veterans sacrifice greatly, both at home and abroad, for the good of our country, and we owe it to each of them to keep the promises we’ve made to take care of them here in Nevada.”

The VARO is providing the video conferencing equipment (Tandberg 1700MXP) to the NOVS Elko office. The equipment provides secured video and voice communications between the Elko site and the VARO in Reno. The video device will be connected to the local internet service provider via a DSL connection. With the assistance of FAX machines at both sites, the veteran will be able to file and prepare claims and receive benefits counseling, which include general inquiries on home loan guarantee, education, and life insurance.

(more)

The NOVS Elko office, at 825 Railroad Street, will host this Remote Benefits Delivery site; and their staff will schedule the appointments and provide technical support when required. Initially, appointments for this service are on Wednesdays, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (excluding federal and State holidays). To schedule an appointment, veterans should call NOVS, at **(775) 777-1000**. While walk-ins will be accepted, priority will be given to those with appointments.

“Serving America’s heroes in these rural counties continues to be a major focus for NOVS, as we recently opened our Elko office in May of this year in an effort to expand our outreach,” added Tetz.

*The Nevada Office of Veterans Services is established under NRS 417 to provide assistance and services to veterans, their family members, and residents of Nevada serving in the Armed Forces of the United States. In accomplishing this goal, the Agency has three programs: Veterans Benefit Assistance, Veterans Cemeteries (Boulder City and Fernley), and a Veterans Nursing Home (Boulder City).*

*Veteran Service Representatives are assigned to offices in Reno, Las Vegas, Fallon, and Elko. These representatives are responsible for helping veterans and their family members obtain federal and State services, compensation, and government benefits to which they are entitled. These representatives: help complete and file Veteran Administration (VA) claims; file appeals and notices of disagreement, and when requested, represent veterans at VA hearings.*

*There are approximately 339,000 veterans residing in Nevada eligible for these services. For more information, they may call NOVS toll free at 1-866-630-VETS (8387) or visit the website at [www.veterans.nv.gov](http://www.veterans.nv.gov).*

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